

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3019,
BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAY-
MENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, we are discussing the fiscal year 1996 omnibus appropriations bill in which an important provision to withhold funding for expanded diplomatic relations with Vietnam until the tyrannical Communist government of Vietnam provides a full accounting of our POW/MIA's was rendered ineffective by compromise language. The original language of the provision, which was co-sponsored by myself and distinguished colleagues, BEN GILMAN, BOB BARR, and JACK KINGSTON, called for the Vietnamese to "fully cooperate" in providing answers to voluminous intelligence reports and analysis in the possession of the United States Department of Defense that is related to more than 400 POW/MIA cases where the service men were last known alive or known to have perished under Vietnamese Government control.

In three hearings before my subcommittee, United States Government analysts repeatedly testified under oath that the United States Government knows that the Vietnamese Government is withholding volumes of records and documents related to missing American heroes in Vietnam and Laos. The words "fully cooperating" was originally accepted by House and Senate appropriations conferees. Tragically this important specific terminology was, at the last minute, watered down to "Elmer Gantryesque" charlatan's rhetoric: "cooperating in full faith." In their needless desperation to cut a deal during the waning hours of negotiations with the White House, congressional negotiators apparently believed that the fate of missing American heroes and the pleas of their families for an honest accounting were an issue to be bartered with the "triple draft-dodger-in-chief."

Mr. Speaker, I am supported by esteemed colleagues and friends such as Senator BOB SMITH and the "Gary Cooper" of this legislative body former POW SAM JOHNSON, in our determination to hold the White House totally culpable. The President must prove, based on United States intelligence analysis in our possession, whether the Vietnamese Government has fully accounted for all POW/MIA cases and returned all remains of fallen heroes in their possession, before any more tax dollars are spent on expanding relations with the brutal and tyrannical Communist dictators in Hanoi.

HONORING THE RICKMAN
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Rickman Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MARYNEZ TORRES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to a brave young woman in my district whose quick thinking saved her family.

Ms. Marynez Torres, 15 was baby-sitting her two younger brothers when a fire broke out in the kitchen of the family's home. Unable to extinguish the fire, Ms. Torres rushed her two brothers out of the house to a safe location and dialed "911".

She was recently honored by both the Hodgkins Village board president and the Pleasantview Fire Protection District for her heroic efforts. As Pleasantview Fire Chief Dan Hermes told Ms. Torres, "You did everything right. We thank you for remembering what to do."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Torres for her quick thinking that saved the life of her two brothers.

"WE THE PEOPLE * * * THE CITI-
ZEN AND CONSTITUTION" PRO-
GRAM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 27-29, 1996, more than 1,300 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia were in Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People * * * The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Lawrence Central High School from Indianapolis, represented the 6th district of the State of Indiana. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Indiana are: Amber Anderson, Carrie Anderson, Heather Bailey, Alicia Crichton, Nathan Criswell, Finda Fallah, Jeremy Freismuth, Lourie Gilbert, Robert Gordon, Phillip Gray, Amanda Gross, Tim Halligan, Lindsey Hamilton, Brandon Hart, Scott King, Brent Patterson, Mike Petro, Megan Pratt, Jason Roberts, Anthony Roque, C. David Smith, Tony Snider, Tomeka Stansberry, Crystal Sullivan, Sarah Thompson, Gene Wagner, Maurice Williams, and Mike Zabst.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Drew Horvath, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Langdon Healy, and the State coordinator, Robert Leming, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People * * * The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People * * * program, now in its 9th academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers, and 22,600,000 students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The We the People * * * program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I am very proud of the achievements of these students from Lawrence Central High School.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.